

## HR 3291

Assistance, Quality, and Affordability Act of 2021

**Congress:** 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Environmental Protection

**Introduced:** May 18, 2021

**Current Status:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 52.

**Latest Action:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 52. (Jun 29, 2021)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/3291>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Tonko, Paul [D-NY-20]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** NY • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Pallone, Frank, Jr. [D-NJ-6]	D · NJ		May 18, 2021
Rep. Horsford, Steven [D-NV-4]	D · NV		Jun 24, 2021

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Reported by	Jun 16, 2021

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Environmental Protection

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 3684	Related bill	<b>Aug 4, 2022:</b> Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. Hearings held.
117 HR 4805	Related bill	<b>Jul 30, 2021:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change.
117 HR 4284	Related bill	<b>Jul 1, 2021:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change.
117 HR 3292	Related bill	<b>May 19, 2021:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change.

## Assistance, Quality, and Affordability Act of 2021

This bill provides support for drinking water infrastructure and requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to address the safety and affordability of drinking water.

Specifically, the bill reauthorizes and establishes several programs for drinking water infrastructure. For example, it reauthorizes through FY2031 the drinking water state revolving fund.

In addition, the bill revises requirements concerning the safety of drinking water, including by requiring the EPA to promulgate national primary drinking water regulations for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (commonly known as PFAS), microcystin toxin, and 1,4-dioxane. PFAS are man-made and may have adverse human health effects. A variety of products contain the compounds, such as nonstick cookware or weatherproof clothing. Microcystin is a toxin that is produced by certain algae. The solvent known as 1,4-dioxane may also have adverse human health effects. It is used in variety of products, such as adhesives, sealants, and printing inks.

The EPA must also implement a residential emergency relief program that assists customers of public water systems with paying drinking water bill. Under the program, the EPA must provide payments to public water systems to reimburse them for forgiving their customers' debts or fees for services provided since March 1, 2020, in order to help the customers retain, reconnect, or restore water services. Public water systems that receive payments may not disconnect or interrupt their customer's service because of such debt or fees.

Finally, the bill directs the Government Accountability Office to report on issues relating to the potential for consolidation of certain distressed and small public water systems.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Jun 29, 2021:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Energy and Commerce. H. Rept. 117-76.
- **Jun 29, 2021:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 52.
- **Jun 23, 2021:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Jun 23, 2021:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by the Yeas and Nays: 32 - 24.
- **Jun 16, 2021:** Subcommittee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Jun 16, 2021:** Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee (Amended) by the Yeas and Nays: 14 - 9 .
- **May 21, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change.
- **May 19, 2021:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR H2594)
- **May 18, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **May 18, 2021:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.